

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 COPENH 04721 180823Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01
/059 W

----- 054945 /11

R 171618Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3743
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COPENHAGEN 4721

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP, DA
SUBJECT: DANISH REACTION TO SPANISH REFERENDUM

REFS:KA) MADRID 9462 (B) COPENHAGEN 3586

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 COPENH 04721 180823Z

BEGIN SUMMARY: BOTH DANISH GOVT AND PRESS COMMENTS ON SPANISH
REFERENDUM ARE POSITIVE AND HELPFUL. THESE COMMENTS SUPPORT
WHAT FONMIN K.B. ANDERSEN SAID AT CONCLUSION OF NATO MEETING. WHEN
HE STATED THAT SPAIN BELONGED TO THE WESTERN EUROPEAN FAMILY
OF NATIONS, EVEN IF THE PCE WERE NOT ALLOWED TO VOTE IN ELECTIONS.
END SUMMARY.

1. DANISH REACTION TO OVERWHELMING "YES" IN SPANISH REFERENDUM HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY POSITIVE AND SUPRISINGLY FAVORABLE. PRESS ACROSS-THE-BOARD HAS REPORTED RESULTS WITHOUT BIAS OR CRITICISM. DESPITE 94 PERCENT "YES" VOTE, THERE HAVE BEEN NO CYNICAL REMARKS SUGGESTING UNDUE GUIDANCE BY GOS BEFORE ELECTION. ON CONTRARY, PRIMIN SUAREZ PRE-ELECTION SPEECH WAS CITED AS BEING PARTICULARLY HELPFUL.

2. SPECIFICALLY, POLITIKEN (LEFT-CENTER), WHICH HAS BEEN VERY CRITICAL OF GOS IN PAST, STATED TODAY (DEC 17): QUOTE THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY FOR LIBERALIZATION IS DIRECT RESULT OF STRONG GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA; TURE, BUT IT IS ALSO MUCH MORE. IT CAN BE TAKEN AS A DEMONSTRATION BY THE MAJORITY TO LEAVE THE FRANCO SYSTEM BEHIND ONCE AND FOR ALL. THIS IS DECISIVE FOR CONTINUED LIBERALIZATION. UNQUOTE ARTICLE WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT LOW PARTICIPATION IN BASQUE PROVINCES MIGHT REQUIRE GOS TO DEVELOP MORE QUICKLY PROGRAM FOR REGIONAL SELF-DETERMINATION. "FURTHERMORE, REFERENDUM", STATES EDITORIAL, "SHOULD BE TAKEN AS WARNING TO BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT. LEFT-WING GROUPS MUST FEEL A CLEAR WARNING. BY ABSTAINING OR VOTING AGAINST THEY HAVE WEAKENED THEMSELVES AND STAND AS GROUP RESENTING LIBERALIZATION."

3. INFORMATION (LEFT-SOCIALIST IN TENDENCY) STATES THAT RESULTS MEAN "FRANCOISM IS DEFINITELY DEAD", AND GOS NOW HAS "FREE HAND TO BUILD SUCH A SYSTEM, BASED ON TRUE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES". CURIOUSLY, INFORMATION, WHICH ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO HAD CRITICIZED GOS FOR NOT ALLOWING COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION, WENT ON TO STATE, QUOTE THE GREATEST THREAT TO THE GOVERNMENT'S CAUTIOUS DEMOCRATIZATION ATTEMPT COMES FROM THE BEST ORGANIZED PARTIES ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 COPENH 04721 180823Z

THE LEFT-WING: THE STILL ILLEGAL COMMUNISTS. SPAIN IS IN A VERY COMPLICATED PERIOD OF TRANSITION AND THE DEMOCRACY WE HOPE WILL SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY IN THE NEXT WEEKS AND MONTHS CAN ONLY BE PERCEIVED IN DIM LINES. THE ROAD TO A PLURALISTIC SYSTEM IN THE MODERN WESTERN SENSE, SEEMS DIFFICULT, FULL OF DANGEROUS OBSTACLES, AND PITFALLS. THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT REST LONG ON ITS LAURELS. ONLY NOW THE REAL BATTLE WILL START BETWEEN DEMOCRATS AND THEIR ENEMIES, WHO ARE APPEARING IN VARIOUS DISGUISES IN SPAIN. UNQUOTE

4. PAUL MOLLER, LEADING COLUMNIST OF BERLINGSKE TIDENDE (RIGHT-CENTER) HAS WRITTEN SERIES OF SIX ARTICLES FROM MADRID OVER PAST WEEK. THESE HAVE PROBABLY GIVEN DANISH OPINION LEADERS THEIR MOST COMPREHENSIVE VIEW OF POST-FRANCO SPAIN IN LAST FEW MONTHS. THE SERIES EXPLAINS EVENTS OF PAST YEAR, WARMLY COMMENDS KING AND SUAREZ, AND POINTS OUT THAT THE THREE PILLARS OF FRANCOISM -- ARMY, CHURCH AND INDUSTRY -- HAVE NOT ONLY CEASED TO

SUPPORT THE EXTREME RIGHT BUT HAVE MOVED
POSITIVELY INTO THE REFORM CAMP.

5. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL DANISH GOVT
REACTION TO REFERENDUM BUT MFA DIRECTOR OF
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS TOLD DCM TODAY THAT DANISH GOVT
WAS MORE THAN SATISFIED BY RESULTS. THIS OFFICIAL
COMMENTED THAT IT WAS FIRST TIME IN HIS MEMORY
THAT ENTIRE GAMUT OF PRESS COMMENT -- EVEN ON
EXTRME LEFT -- HAD REPORTED FAVORABLY ON EVENTS
IN SPAIN. HE INTERPRETED THIS TO MEAN THAT NOT
ONLY WAS GOS PUTTING ITS BEST FOOT FORWARD BUT
THAT MANY DANES WERE LEARNING THAT EVENTS IN
SPAIN HAD TO BE LOOKED AT IN THEIR PROPER
CONTEXT AND RECEIVED WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF
OBJECTIVITY AND UNDERSTANDING AND NOT WITH THE
USUAL MORAL SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 COPENH 04721 180823Z

6 IN COMMENTING ON REFERENDUM, SPANISH DCM
REMARKED THAT SELF-STYLED SPANISH EXILE (WHO
IS REPORTER FOR POLITIKEN) HAD COME TO EMBASSY
FEW DAYS AGO TO CHECK ON HOW FEFERNDUM BALLOTS
WERE BEING ISSUED TO SPANISH CITIZENS. HE TOOK
ONE HIMSELF AND AFTER ASKING SEVERAL QUESTIONS
REMARKED THAT HE HAD NO STORY TO TELL AFTER ALL,
SINCE EVERYTHING HAD BEEN DONE SO OPENLY AND
HONESTLY. SPANISH DCM OBSERVED THAT ABOUT 300
SPANISH CITIZENS (MANY OF WHOM WERE KNOWN AS
ANTI-GOS EXILES) HAD COME TO VOTE. THEY WERE
ALLOWED TO MAIL BALLOTS ON THEIR OWN OR IF THEY
PREFERRED, SPANISH EMBASSY DID SO FOR THEM.
THEY WERE GIVEN ALL THREE BALLOTS -- YES, NO
AND BLANK ONES -- AND TOLD TO DESTROY TWO UNUSED
ONES AT HOME SO THAT SPANISH EMBASSY WOULD NOT
KNOW WHICH THEY HAD PLACED IN ENVELOPE.

7. POSITIVE COMMENTS NOTED ABOVE ABOUT
REFERENDUM CAME SOON AFTER MOST IMPORTANT
OFFICIAL DANISH STATEMENT ABOUT SPAIN IN PAST
FEW MONTHS. THIS WAS MADE BY FONMIN ANDERSEN
TO DANISH JOURNALISTS FOLLOWING NATO MINISTERIAL
LAST WEEK AND WAS RESULT OF SECDEF RUMSFELD'S
REMARKS ABOUT SPAIN IN DPC. ANDERSEN MADE
FOLLOWING STATEMENT:
QUOTE WE CANNOT INVITE SPAIN INTO THE
NATO FAMILY BEFORE DEMOCRACY HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.
BUT IF THE SPANISH PEOPLE CONFIRM THE CONSTITUTION
IN THE REFERENDUM, SUBSEQUENTLY ELECT A PARLIAMENT

AND A GOVERNMENT WITH SUPPORT IN THIS PARLIAMENT,
THERE IS AN OBVIOUS POSSIBILITY OF SPANISH
MEMBERSHIP IN NATO.

QUOTE I HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT SPAIN BELONGS
IN THE WEST EUROPEAN FAMILY OF NATIONS -- AND
THIS APPLIES EVEN IF THE COMMUNISTS DO NOT HAVE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 COPENH 04721 180823Z

THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION. AFTER
ALL, COMMUNISTS IN WEST GERMANY DID NOT HAVE THIS
RIGHT FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, UNQUOTE

8. COMMENT: PENDULUM HAS SWUNG FULL CYCLE SINCE
YEAR AGO WHEN EVEN CONSERVATIVE DANES OFTEN FELT
CONSTRAINED TO CRITICIZE SPAIN. FACT THAT LEFT-
ORIENTED NEWSPAPERS AND LEFT-WING MEMBERS OF
BOLKETING ARE DILENT OR EVEN COMMENDATORY IN
THEIR REMARKS ABOUT SPAIN IN PAST MONTH REFLECTS
REMARKABLE CHANGE. VIOLENCE SUCH AS ORIOL
KIDNAPPING HAS BEEN CONDEMNED BY EVERYONE AND
HAS HELPED TO CONVINCE MAJORITY OF
BY THE MODERATE CENTER AND NOT BY THE EXTREMISTS
DANES THAT SPANISH DEMOCRACY CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED
ON EITHER THE RIGHT OR THE LEFT.

9 DANES WILL FOLLOW NEXT DEVELOPMENT --
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS -- WITH CLOSE INTEREST.
ONCE THESE TAKE PLACE, THERE WILL BE MUCH LESS
OPPOSITION HERE TO SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN EITHER
NATO OR EEC.
DEAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REFORM, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COPENH04721
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760465-1140
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761234/aaaabdek.tel
Line Count: 204
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MADRID 9462, 76 COPENHAGEN 3586
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <06 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DANISH REACTION TO SPANISH REFERENDUM
TAGS: PINT, SP, DA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006